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CONGRESSMAN

TONY HALL NEWS

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JUNE 24, 1986, A.M.s

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CONTACT: MICHAEL GESSEL

HALL, CITING 133 SPONSORS OF EAST TIMOR RESOLUTION, AND MISTREATMENT OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS, ASKS SHULTZ TO REITERATE U.S. CONCERN TO INDONESIA

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio), leader of a bipartisan group of 133 House members who have sponsored a resolution on the tragic situation in East Timor, called on Secretary of State George P. Shultz to underline official U.S. concern over the Timor issue when Shultz meets with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar, at the meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Manila today (June 24).

In a letter Hall urged Shultz to raise issues related to human rights in East Timor including "reports of disappearances, summary executions, torture, 'hidden' prisons to which international humanitarian agencies do not have access, and forced birth control."

"Such a birth control program instituted in East Timor by the Indonesian government takes on graver significance beyond reports of coercion. The huge loss of life in East Timor since the Indonesian invasion, compounded by the comparatively small original population, gives any birth control program carried out by Jakarta some profoundly disquieting implications for the survival of the East Timor people," Hall warned.

The 133 cosponsors of Hall's East Timor resolution are to date the largest number of House members to cosponsor a resolution on this issue. East Timor, a predominantly Roman Catholic former Portuguese colony was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 largely armed with U.S. supplied military equipment. It is widely believed that more than 100,000 East Timorese of a population of less than 700,000 have perished as a result of the combined effects of the Indonesian occupation.

Concern over the East Timor situation has been expressed over the past two years by Pope John Paul II, John Cardinal O'Connor, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and by Shultz himself, most recently during President Reagan's May visit to Bali, Indonesia.

In the letter, Hall pointed out that the detention and expulsion from Indonesia of New York Times correspondent Barbara Crossette and two Australian journalists at the time of Mr. Reagan's visit to Bali illustrated not only intolerance towards the news media but also provided an indication of how the Indonesian government behaves towards those who disobey its wishes.

Hall cited the recent remarks of the former head of the East Timorese Catholic Church, who said, "If the Indonesians would behave like this toward Barbara Crossette and the Australian journalists when the whole world was watching imagine what they do in East Timor" where there are few independent observers.

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TONY P. HALL
THIRD DISTRICT, OHIO
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON RULES OF THE HOUSE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 1986

Hon. George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the 125 House members who signed an April 24 letter to President Reagan regarding the East Timor tragedy prior to the President's meeting with Indonesian President Suharto in Bali, allow me to thank you for the efforts that have been made on this difficult issue.

At the meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations late this month in Manila, it is my hope and that of many of my colleagues that you will take the opportunity to reiterate the concern of the United States over the fate of East Timor in your discussions with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar. My colleagues and I recognize that many other aspects exist in the relationship between the United States and Indonesia, and that you will have many other matters on your agenda at the Manila meeting. Nevertheless, many of us in Congress believe that the United States should increase its efforts to exert a constructive influence on the East Timor question. American initiatives could play a significant role in helping to prevent further bloodshed and misery in East Timor.

Specifically, I urge you to raise issues of human rights in East Timor with Mr. Mochtar, including reports of disappearances, summary executions, torture, "hidden" prisons to which international humanitarian agencies do not have access, and forced birth control. Such a birth control program instituted in East Timor by the Indonesian government takes on graver significance beyond reports of coercion. The huge loss of life in East Timor since the Indonesian invasion, compounded by the comparatively small original population, gives any birth control program carried out by Jakarta some profoundly disquieting implications for the survival of the East Timor people.

I am enclosing a copy of House Concurrent Resolution 244, which expresses the sense of Congress concerning the East Timor tragedy, and which has so far been sponsored by 133 House members. A similar resolution has been introduced in the Senate. The degree of support for the East Timor resolution reflects the continuing belief of many Members of Congress that the East Timor situation is a serious problem that should remain on America's foreign policy agenda.

I would conclude by noting the detention and expulsion from Indonesia of New York Times correspondent Barbara Crossette and two Australian journalists at the time of President Reagan's recent visit to Bali. This incident not only illustrates Jakarta's intolerance toward the news media but also provides an indication of what happens to those who disobey official wishes. The former head of the Catholic Church in East Timor recently noted that "if the Indonesians would behave like this towards Barbara Crossette and the Australian journalists while the whole world was watching imagine what they do in East Timor" where there are few independent observers. This is precisely what concerns me and many of my colleagues.

Once again, thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Tony P. Hall

Tony P. Hall
Member of Congress

TPH:mgk
Enclosure

99TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 244

To express the sense of Congress regarding East Timor.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 1985

Mr. HALL of Ohio submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of Congress regarding East Timor.

Whereas an estimated 100,000 East Timorese out of a population of less than 700,000 have died since the invasion and occupation of East Timor by the Government of Indonesia, which began on December 7, 1975;

Whereas armed conflict persists in East Timor;

Whereas threats of food shortages and medical problems persist in some areas of East Timor;

Whereas international access to and the free flow of information from East Timor remain restricted;

Whereas the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor is denied full freedom of expression and is subject to intimidation by Indonesian authorities;

Whereas Indonesian authorities have instituted a birth control program in East Timor without the full knowledge and consent of the people of the territory and despite large-scale loss of life there since 1975;

Whereas Indonesian authorities have placed many East Timorese in resettlement areas against their wishes where many of them are prevented from raising crops;

Whereas Amnesty International issued a report in June 1985 which called attention to systematic violations of human rights in East Timor;

Whereas in a statement made in July 1984 Pope John Paul II expressed concern over the human rights situation in East Timor and the need for international relief agencies to operate freely in the territory, and expressed the hope that particular consideration would be given to the ethnic, religious, and cultural identity of the people of East Timor;

Whereas in August 1985 the United States Catholic Conference called attention to a letter sent in June 1985 by Cardinal John O'Connor of New York to Msgr. Carlos Ximenes Belo, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor, which expressed support for the struggle to preserve and enhance the dignity of life of the East Timorese people and for their right to live in peace and freedom; and

Whereas 157 East Timorese political prisoners were tried in Indonesian tribunals between December 1983 and June 1985 without the presence of qualified international observers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should take all appropriate measures to encourage the government of Indonesia to—

(1) maintain and expand access to and guarantee freedom of movement in East Timor for humanitarian organizations so that such organizations can carry out their humanitarian operations to the fullest extent feasible;

(2) allow unhindered access to East Timor for journalists, church delegations, and human rights groups that seek to visit the territory;

(3) guarantee full freedom of expression for and end intimidation of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor;

(4) allow an impartial international examination of population limitation measures instituted in East Timor and end all such measures that do not have the full consent and knowledge of those directly concerned;

(5) allow qualified international observers to be present at trial proceedings that involve East Timorese political prisoners;

(6) allow an impartial international investigation of the conditions that exist in areas of East Timor where East Timorese have been resettled by Indonesian authorities; and

(7) work with the Governments of Portugal and the United States to develop initiatives that address the sources of conflict in East Timor and that bring an authentic peace to East Timor.

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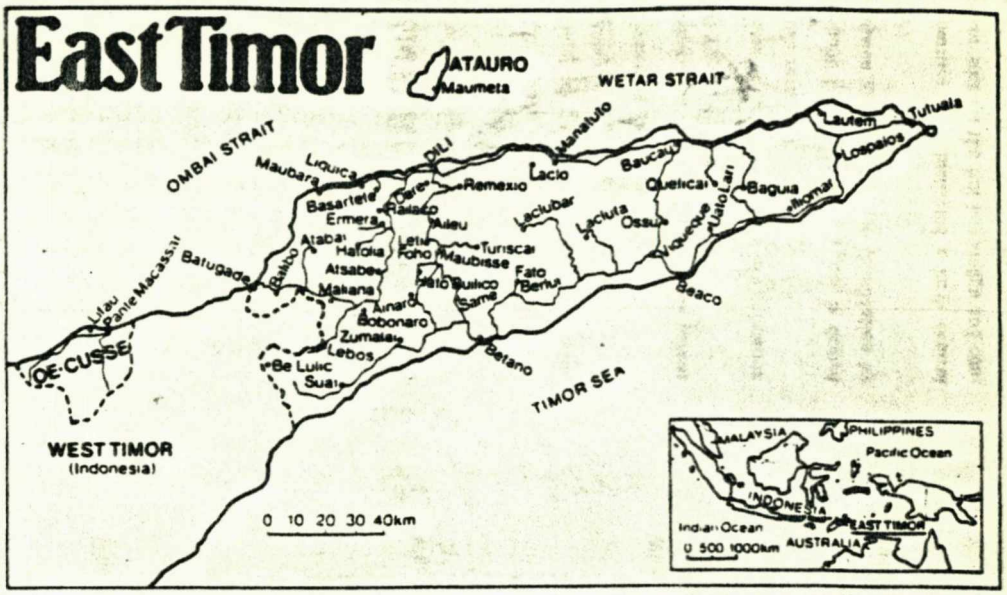
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 1986



Dear Colleague:

I would like to invite you to cosponsor the resolution (H. Con. Res. 244) on the back of this sheet to express the sense of Congress regarding the tragedy that persists in East Timor. East Timor is the largely Roman Catholic former Portuguese colony which was invaded and occupied by Indonesia in 1975.

Concern over East Timor was raised during President Reagan's recent trip to Indonesia. A total of 125 Representatives cosigned a letter to the President about East Timor prior to his departure. A similar letter to Secretary of State Shultz was cosigned by 23 Senators.

Secretary Shultz raised the Timor issue when he visited Indonesia in July, 1984. That same month, Pope John Paul II also expressed deep concern about the plight of the people of East Timor. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher raised the issue when she visited Jakarta in April, 1985. Further, in June, 1985, Amnesty International issued a detailed report on the human rights situation in East Timor, and has published additional information in recent months.

Strong support for H. Con. Res. 244 will demonstrate sustained Congressional interest in the East Timor tragedy. If you would like to join the 78 of our colleagues who have cosponsored H. Con. Res. 244, please contact Marty Rendon at 5-6465.

Sincerely,

Tony P. Hall, M.C.

COSPONSORS OF H. CON. RES. 244

Bates	Dellums	Gray (PA)	Levin	Neal	Seiberling
Beilenson	Donnelly	Green	Levine	Oakar	Smith (NJ)
Bentley	Dorgan	Hayes	Lowry	Oberstar	Studds
Berman	Dornan	Heftel	Martinez	Pepper	Synar
Bonior	Edgar	Horton	Matsui	Porter	Towns
Bonker	Edwards (CA)	Howard	Mavroules	Robinson	Udall
Bosco	Evans (Ill)	Hoyer	McEwen	Rodino	Vento
Boxer	Fauntroy	Hughes	McHugh	Roe	Walgren
Bustamante	Fazio	Kaptur	Miller (CA)	Savage	Waxman
Clay	Foglietta	Kastenmeir	Moakley	Scheuer	Weiss
Coelho	Frank	Kostmayer	Moody	Schneider	Wolpe
Conte	Garcia	Lantos	Morrison (CT)	Schroeder	Wortley
Cooper	Gejdenson	Lehman (Fla)	Mrazek	Schumer	Wyden